Identification of New and Diverse use of Jute

2653. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps his Ministry have taken so far for identification of new and diverse uses of jute and encouragement of its manufacture and sale in India and abroad;

(b) what provisions have been made during 1990-91 for grant of financial assistance to national agencies, scientific, technological and economic research and development/training schemes etc.; and

(c) whether Government propose to open show room in Delhi with a view to popularise the use of jute as a fancy and utility item?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The folowing major steps have been taken:—

(f) Introduction of the Internal Market Assistance and External Market Assistance Schemes.

(2) Abolition of excise duty on certain jute diversified products.

(3) Import duty concession/exemption on selected items of machinery required for manufacture of Jute diversified products.

(4) Grant of Cash Compensatory support on export of jute diversified products.

(b) Under the jute Special Development Fund Scheme provisions have been made for grant of financial assistance to national agencies, for taking up scientific, technological and economic research and development/training schemes etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Measures to save South Salmara from being eroded by the Brahmaputra River

2654. SHRI AMRIT LAL BASUMATARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large scale erosion in South Salmara on old township in Dhubri District of Assam by the Brahmaputra river; and

(b) whether the Brahmaputra Board or the Central Water Commission is taking any action to save the township and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) The Government of Assam proposes to undertake anti-erosion schemes, but they have to finalise details after requisite model studies.

Competition amongst subsidiaries of General Insurance Corporation

2655. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy under consideration of Government to have healthy competition amongst the subsidiaries of General Insurance Corporation in the larger interest of the policy holders;

(b) if so, what efforts are being made by the Corporation to explore the virgin areas/rural areas; and

(c) whether any incentive will be paid to the officers for exploring the virgin areas to bring under the fold of General Insurance?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) In order to create